GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1645
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Procurement of Foodgrains
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total procurement of foodgrains during the current year along with the increase/decrease over the previous year, grain, State and agency-wise;
(b) whether the Government has engaged agencies apart from the Food Corporation of India for procurement of foodgrain for the Central pool;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken for opening additional procurement centres during the ensuing season?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): The details of procurement of wheat, paddy/rice and coarse grains during the current year along with the increase/decrease over the previous year, grain, State and agency-wise is at Annexure-I, II and III respectively.
(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Apart from Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Agencies of respective State Governments and some private agencies are also engaged in the procurement of food grains. Procurement of coarsegrain is done only through the State Agencies. The private agencies have been engaged for a period of three years through a competitive bidding process by FCI in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal for paddy/rice procurement and to expand the coverage of MSP operations to such identified clusters of Districts/Parts of the District, where outreach of Government Agencies has been weak and State Governments have consented for FCI to engage the private agencies to reach out to the paddy farmers for improvement. The statement showing details of such private agencies is at Annexure-IV.
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(d): Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies in consultation with FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics/ infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. A large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.
In Decentralized Procuring (DCP) states, it is State Government agencies which are responsible for procurement of wheat from farmers and FCI opens purchase centre only at backward places as per specific request received from State agencies. In Non-DCP states FCI and State Government operate required number of purchase centres in all potential areas in consultation with each other. Even during mid-seasons, as and when any demand for opening of purchase centre at particular places for price support operations is raised, FCI/Govt. agencies open procuring centres at these places in order to prevent distress sale.
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